GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 3 OF 1945.

Confidential until released for publication as under :-

Morning Papers .. 3rd May, 1945.
Evening Papers .. 3rd May, 1945.

RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER, 1945.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index numbers for March Quarter 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1071, Toowoomba 1086, Rockhampton 1077, Townsville 1117, Bundaberg 1056 and Warwick 1061.

The figures show the following percentage increases or decreases when compared with those for the periods shown.

City.	March Quarter, 1945 - Percentage Increase or Decrease Compared With -		
	Year Ended June, 1939.	March Quarter, 1944.	December Quarter, 1944.
Brisbane	24.1	- 0.1	0.2
Toowoomba	27.6	- 0.1	0.2
Rockhampton	25.1	0.2	0.6
Townsville	22.5	0.1	0.1
Bundaberg	25.6	0.0	0.0
Warwick	29.1	0.2	0.0

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc., have shown the following percentage changes during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City.	Food and Groceries.		Clothing and Footwear.		Miscellaneous Items.	
	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Decr. Qr. 1944.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Decr. Qr., 1944.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase or Decrease on Decr. Qr., 1944.
Brisbane	13.0	0.8	72.4	- 0.1	19.1	- 0.1
Toowoomba	24.0	0.6	68.8	- 0.4	18.7	0.0
Rockhampton	13.7	2.0	70.7	- 0.5	20.7	0.2
Townsville	10.8	0.9	72.0	- 0.6	18.1	0.5
Bundaberg	14.1	0.7	70.7	- 0.5	17.5	0.1
Warwick	16.7	0.2	71.3	0.0	21.1	0.0

Food and Rent (4 and 5 roomed houses) - "B" Series.

Index numbers for March quarter, 1945 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 924, Toowoomba 949, Rockhampton 918, Townsville 980, Bundaberg 888 and Warwick 888.

From December quarter 1944 to March quarter 1945 the "B" Series Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 0.5, Toowoomba 0.4, Rockhampton 1.3, Townsville 0.5, Bundaberg 0.5 and Warwick 0.1.

The increase was mainly due to the seasonal rise in the price of eggs aided in Brisbane by a small increase in the price of beef.

Rents were unaltered in all towns.

Compared with March quarter 1944 the "B" Series Index decreased by 0.1 per cent. in Brisbane but increased by the following percentages in the other towns - Toowoomba 0.4, Rockhampton 1.0, Townsville 0.7, Bundaberg 0.1, Warwick 0.9.

The Rent Index remained stationary in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville and Bundaberg but showed small increases in Toowoomba (0.1 per cent.) and Warwick (0.7 per cent.)

The decrease in Brisbane was mainly due to a reduction in the price of meat.

Compared with the index for 1938-39 the "B" Series Index increased by the following percentages - Brisbane 8.5, Toowoomba 15.6, Rockhampton 9.7, Townsville 7.0, Bundaberg 11.1 and Warwick 15.6.

Increases were recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in March quarter 1945 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
	£ s. d	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	1. 0. 3	1. 0.10	19.11	19. 7
Rockhampton	1. 0. 1	1. 1. 1	17. 9	1. 0. 2
Townsville	1. 0.10	1. 1.11	1. 0. 1(a)	1. 0. 3
Bundaberg	19. 9	1. 1. 4	15. 7	1. 0. 1
Warwick	19.10	1. 0. 5	17. 1	19. 9

(a) The figure in December quarter Bulletin of £1. 1. 1 was incorrect. It should have read £1. 0. 1, the same as the present quarter.

Comparison of Commonwealth and State Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

STATE.	METROPOLITAN.				STATE AVERAGES b.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane.	Actual Basic Wage. a.	Margin in Favour of Brisbane.	Price Index Nos. "C" Series.	Amount required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland.	State Basic Wage.	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1071	4.17. 0	4.17. 0	-	1075	4.17. 8	4.17. 8	-
N.S.W.	1138	5. 3. 1	4.18. 0	5. 1	1135	5. 3. 1	4.18. 0	5. 1
Victoria	1132	5. 2. 6	4.18. 0	4. 6	1129	5. 2. 6	4.17.10	4. 8
South Aust.	1098	4.19. 5	4.14. 0	5. 5	1094	4.19. 4	4.14. 0	5. 4
West.Aust.	1104	5. 0. 0	4.19.11	-. 1	1113	5. 1. 1	5. 0. 5	8
Tasmania	1101	4.19. 9	4.13. 0	6. 9	1085	4.18. 6	4.12. 0	6. 6

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City.	Year Ended Decr. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended March 1945.	QUARTERS ENDED - March 1944.	June 1944.	Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.	March 1945.
Brisbane	917	863	1071	1072	1072	1071	1069	1071
Toowoomba	906	851	1085	1087	1085	1084	1084	1086
Rockhampton	903	861	1075	1075	1076	1074	1071	1077
Townsville	1023	912	1117	1116	1119	1117	1116	1117
Bundaberg	(b)	841	1057	1056	1060	1057	1056	1056
Weighted Averages - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1075	1075	1076	1075	1073	1075
Warwick	914	822	1062	1059	1062	1063	1061	1061

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

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Table No. 2.

FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City.	Year Ended Decr. 1928.	Year Ended June, 1939.	Year Ended March 1945.	QUARTERS ENDED - March 1944.	June 1944.	Sept. 1944.	Decr. 1944.	March 1945.
Brisbane	901	852	922	925	924	922	919	924
Toowoomba	833	821	946	945	946	943	945	949
Rockhampton	858	837	911	909	911	907	906	918
Townsville	1047	916	977	973	976	975	975	980
Bundaberg	(b)	799	886	887	889	884	884	888
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	926	927	927	925	923	928
Warwick	841	768	888	880	888	887	887	888

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.
(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter, 1936.

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Table No. 3.

AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June 1939.	MONTH OF Decr. 1944.	MONTH OF March 1945.	Commodity and Unit of Quantity.	Year Ended June, 1939.	MONTH OF Decr. 1944.	MONTH OF March 1945.
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Oats - flaked .. 1 lb.	3.57	4.06	4.06
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.09	4.09	Milk .. .. 1 qt.	6.00	7.10	7.10
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	27.05	27.05	Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	12.00	12.00
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.94	3.98	Beef - Steak Rump .. .. 1 lb.	11.34	17.00	17.00
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	12.50	12.55	Beef - Steak Chuck .. 1 lb.	5.83	7.05	7.55
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	13.03	12.85	Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	7.55	7.90
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	8.37	8.37	Mutton - leg .. 1 lb.	7.75	8.50	8.50
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	3.00	2.96	Mutton - chops .. 1 lb.	7.78	9.00	9.00
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.96	6.88				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	19.82	19.91				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	15.09	15.09				
Eggs .. 1 doz.	19.69	23.00	27.91				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,

BRISBANE, 2nd May, 1945.